

1936

A Statistical Study of Attitudes

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Same number *correct answers but were changed to incorrect.*

49 True statements wrongly answered but changed to correct out of 88.

50 False statements wrongly answered but changed to correct out of 119.

99 Incorrect answers changed to correct.

293 True statements correctly answered left unchanged.

223 False statements correctly answered left unchanged.

516 Correct answers.

Note that they made just as many changes that they should not have made as they left unchanged of their wrong answers that they should have changed. And they made fewer correct changes (99) than incorrect ones (112). This lowered their scores.

If we wish students to make higher scores than they should according to what they know, we should provide an excess of true statements. If they are given a test in which false statements predominate, their scores will be lower than they should be.

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A STATISTICAL STUDY OF ATTITUDES

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An attitude test covering seven major attitudes, established on a priori grounds, was given to 165 adult male subjects in industrial plants. Included are attitudes toward traffic regulations and enforcement; risk and annoyance; socialistic, communistic and conventional principles; racial and religious attitudes; conformist attitudes; and those relating to sports. The reliabilities of the attitude groupings range from .86 down to .55. Intercorrelations of these items indicate grouping into a smaller number of factors. A comparison is made between accident and non-accident drivers on significant attitudes.

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